LOS ALTOS HILLS
CALIFORNIA

Town of Los Altos Hills

NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII September 1993

Coming This Sunday, October 3rd, Pathways Day!

The Town of Los Altos Hills invites all residents to participate in our annual Pathway Day, to be held Sunday, October 3, 1993. This day is planned to acquaint our residents with the pathway system, and to show them many of its hidden natural treasures. It is an enjoyable way to meet other residents. The walks will take place at three different locations this year, with staggered starting times. The Westwind Barn path area will also feature a guided ride for local equestrians.

Walks will be led by members of the Town's Pathway, Recreation, and Parks Committee, with members of the Community Relations Committee acting as hosts and providing light refreshments at each path-end.

Choose from (or combine!) the following meeting places: 1. Westwind Barn, 27210 Altamont Road; 2. Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road; and 3. Oak Knoll Circle, off of Stonebrook Drive, across from Prospect Road.

1. Westwind Barn: This path features a walk and horse ride through the beautiful Byrne Preserve along the Artemis Ginzton Path. The starting time is 10:15 a.m. for the horse ride, or 10:30 a.m. for the walk. Level: Moderate to difficult.

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Town Contracts for Emergency Animal Control Services

As the result of severe budget cuts, Santa Clara County eliminated its animal control service to incorporated cities July 1st. Faced with this cutback, the Town has contracted with the City of Palo Alto to provide emergency animal control services. The contract will cost the town approximately $29,000 for the fiscal year.

The new services, which began August 18th, include: licensing of dogs, optional registration of cats, investigation of animal bites and quarantine of biting animals, pickup of dead animals from the streets, and transportation of injured stray dogs and cats to a veterinarian. Humane box traps may be rented by Town residents for capturing stray cats. Residents can take stray or unwanted pets to the Animal Services Center at 3281 East Bayshore Road in Palo Alto (one mile north of San Antonio Road on the east side of Highway 101). The animal shelter, built in 1972, also houses the Spay & Neuter Clinic, whose services include low-cost altering of dogs and cats, as well as vaccinations.

The agreement does not include control of nuisance urban wildlife – raccoons, opossums, bats or skunks. This service continues to be provided by Santa Clara County Vector Control.

Dog licenses previously issued through Santa Clara County will remain valid through their respective expiration dates. At renewal time, Animal Services will mail pet owners a reminder. These should arrive several weeks before the license expires. Santa Clara County tags will then be replaced with a heart-shaped, Los Altos Hills dog tag. Greg Betts, Superintendent of Animal Services, said he trusts that Los Altos Hills residents will find the new service convenient. There are three ways that a pet owner can buy a license: 1) at the Animal Services center, 2) by mail, or 3) over the telephone, by charging to a credit card. Animal Services provides a rabies clinic at the shelter every Wednesday, for the convenience of dog owners who need to

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Council Matters

The Los Altos Hills City Council meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Matters of special interest are addressed at 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter, and members of the public are given the opportunity at that time to address the meeting on any subject of their choice.

The following are some of the topics the council plans to address in the coming months:

- Revisions of the Town's Zoning and Site Development Ordinance, relating to basements and floor area.
- A proposed residential subdivision in and around the Neary Quarry.
- A proposal for development of some of the David Packard land.
- Updating the Town's General Plan – in particular the Housing Element, which is required by state law to address adequate low income housing.
- A review of the guidelines governing the Town's volunteer committees.
- A Design Guidelines booklet for new construction.
- Publication of an update of the Los Altos Hills Handbook.

Specific council meeting agenda information is available at both Town Hall and the Los Altos Library during the week of each council meeting. "Dial-Agenda" (941-7225) provides a recorded list of items on the upcoming agenda.

This is *your* Town. It will be a rare meeting that won't have some agenda item of particular interest to you.

Protecting The Bay: Storm Water Runoff Consciousness

The Town of Los Altos Hills has joined with the other cities in our County in a concerted effort to keep toxic materials out of our creeks and the Bay. While waste water that goes down our sinks and toilets is cleaned by the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant, water that goes down the storm drains in the street goes directly to our creeks, receiving no treatment. Since all of our creeks eventually flow into the Bay, we may all be contributing to Bay pollution, a little at a time. So, what should we work to keep out of the storm drains and the culverts which line our streets? Specifically:

Pools, Jacuzzis or Fountains

Both chlorine and copper are toxic to fish. Many people drain their pool water and backwash water (from flushing the pool filter) into the street gutter. This allows pool chemicals to get into the creeks. Always send your filter backwash water through a hose into your home's sewer cleanout pipe. Before you drain your pool, invest in an inexpensive pool water test kit that can test for the presence of chlorine.

Since chlorine will naturally evaporate from your pool, don't add chlorine the preceeding week, but do keep the pool water circulating through the filter. This will give any chlorine in the water a chance to dissipate. You shouldn't be able to detect any chlorine in the water when emptying your pool.

Copper does not dissipate while you wait. Some of it leaves the pool through the filter backwash water, and some remains in the pool. If you know that any copper has been put into your pool or if you are unsure, you should drain your pool through a hose into your utility sink or your sewer pipe cleanout junction. The waste water plant can remove most of the copper from the water. If you know there has never been any copper put into your pool and there is no chlorine left in the pool water, you can drain the water into the gutter. In general, avoid using pool products that contain copper.

Gardening

Pesticides are toxic to fish, and fertilizers will cause the algae in creeks to grow (which can suffocate fish.) Be sure that no trace of any weed killer, insecticide, or fertilizer finds its way into the gutter or into a creek. Never apply chemicals when rain is forecast. Don't over apply chemicals or over-water chemicals into the ground. This causes toxic runoff. When rinsing equipment, spray the rinse water on the area you were treating. Old garden chemicals that you want to dispose of can be brought to the County's Household Hazardous Water Program at no charge. Call for an appointment at (408) 299-7300.

Our Town's Budget

The State of California has balanced its budgets the last two years by taking property tax revenues from cities, counties and some special districts and transferring the money to schools. These transfers have reduced the funds the State must provide to the schools under our State Constitution. The 1993–94 State budget transferred $2.5 billion.

Los Altos Hills lost 9% of its property tax receipts in 1992–93, and an additional 5% in 1993–94. These are permanent, ongoing, revenue losses.

The County of Santa Clara was hit harder than other local governments. We will experience cuts in County services at our library this fall. The County also eliminated animal control services, forcing the Town to add this permanent new expense to our budget, estimated to be $29,000 this year.

The Los Altos Fire District lost 10% of its property tax last year, but was exempted from further cuts this year.

The stability of local government finances rests with the voters in November, when they will be asked to approve a permanent extension of the 1/2 cent sales tax for public safety programs. City and county representatives are considering ways to replace the 40% cut which the library will experience.

New Path Under Construction To Be Featured In Town "Walk-about" On Pathways Day

The Town will have a new link completed in its pathway system for the October 3, 1993, Town "Walk-about." Located in the Magdalena area, it will take pathway users from Frampton Court along a beautiful swell to Fernhill Drive and then out to Camino Hermosa, where one can access either the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District at the end of Ravensbury Drive or the Juan Prado Mesa Preserve located off Dawson Drive.

The path is being built through the joint efforts of the Town of Los Altos Hills and the Trails Center, a non-profit organization headquartered in Los Altos, which organizes volunteers to build trails. It is hoped that this pilot project, jointly sponsored by the two organizations, will result in further cooperation in building paths through sensitive areas in Los Altos Hills.

Animal Control

(Continued from page 1)

revaccinate their dogs. Betts stressed that licenses are an important form of identification for lost pets. When an animal control officer picks up a dog displaying a license, it can be returned to its home rather than being taken to the shelter. "Dogs which do not get 'out of the house' frequently need a dog license as much as any other dog," Betts added, "since these dogs often become disoriented and wander from home."

The Animal Services staff will assist residents who have lost or found animals. "Our staff will be glad to take a lost pet report, check records of found animals, and provide LOST PET posters and other tips for finding lost pets," Betts offered. Persons who are missing their pet are encouraged to visit both the Palo Alto shelter and the Humane Society shelter in Santa Clara.

Betts feels confident that Los Altos Hills residents will enjoy better service than was previously provided by the County.

Where to call for information:

- Animal Services & Placement Center
  3281 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, (415) 329-2671
  Open: Monday through Saturday
  11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  After-hours assistance for injured stray dogs or cats: 329-2413
- Santa Clara County Vector Control (800) 675-1155.

Did You Know?

- 77,000 workers living in Santa Clara County commute to jobs in "other" counties. This is a 44% increase since 1980.
- 2,300 solar-powered cellular phones are now installed along Bay Area freeways. This system averages 500 calls per day. It is financed by an extra $1 per vehicle tacked on to our vehicle registration fee.

News From The Purissima Hills Water District

The Drought
Almost everyone now acknowledges that the drought is over, at last. Purissima Hills wishes to thank its customers for last year's effort, which got us through with no penalty payments to San Francisco. Statewide, the picture for the future looks a little grim, with few new water projects to serve substantial population growth. One hope is legislation now being considered which would allow agriculture-urban transfers. At Purissima, the quest for alternate sources continues. There is a potential for well development and for an inter-tie with the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Reservoirs
Our 1,000,000 gallon concrete "La Cresta" tank, destroyed in the Loma Prieta earthquake, has now been replaced by a slightly smaller (900,000 gallon) steel tank located at the same site. The new structure was completed in February at a cost of more than $620,000. We are working with FEMA, and expect that most of the cost will be reimbursed in the near future. Repair work on our 3,000,000 gallon "Hungry Horse" tank at Matadero Creek Road was completed just in time for the July heat wave. That involved minor patching of spalled areas and certain cracks which might have been quake related. The cost was about $37,000 and we were happy the repairs were made before a leak developed. It's good to have all our storage facilities on line for the fire season.

Other Projects
On August 5, we opened bids for a pumping plant to serve our highest pressure zone (from 600' to 1,000' in elevation), which will replace one built in 1965. Though the old station near Altamont Road will remain in back-up status, the new facility – which will cost about $124,000 – will be fireproof and will more than double pumping capacity to about 750 gallons per minute. This will provide increased fire flows and enhance our "off-peak" pumping ability, which can result in substantial power cost savings. By using "off-peak" pumping last year at our Deer Creek station (Arastradero at Purissima), we saved $16,000 in power costs. This year we plan to increase our use of this process.

5-Year Plan
Our Board of Directors adopted a 5-year capital improvement plan at their July meeting. This year's budget (1993/94) includes the purchase of another 225 kW emergency generator; a fire-proof roof at our "Matadero" pump station (Page Mill Road); an emergency fuel storage facility; upgrading of our two-way radio system; the enlarging and replacing of mains in the La Cresta, Purissima, and Arastradero areas; the installation of a chlorine system at our Hungry Horse tank (State mandated), and the drilling of three test wells. The total estimated cost is $483,000. Our capital improvement costs over the following four years are also expected to run about $500,000 per year. Projects will include additional chlorination stations, pipeline replacement, tank painting, motor and pump replacement, and reinforcement of pipeline capacity.

Pathways Day

(Continued from page 1)

2. Oak Knoll Circle: This path will feature the latest addition to the Town Pathway System, a walk through a lovely natural swell area and the Juan Prado Mesa Preserve. The starting time for this walk is 11:30 a.m. Level: Difficult.

3. Town Hall: This path features a combination of on-road paths as well as off-road paths which criss-cross linking neighborhoods. The starting time for this route is 1:00 p.m. Level: Easy, with one or two grades.

Our Pathway and Community Relations Committee members will be present to provide additional information about the path system. Make this a family outing, as children and pets on leash are welcome!

The concept of the Town's Pathway System originated with the Town's founding fathers, and was designated in the Town's founding documents and very first ordinances. It was later reaffirmed in 1982, when the Town adopted the Path and Trail Element of the General Plan. Today, the Town has a strong resolve to obtain the necessary easements to complete the system, to construct new paths, to improve existing paths, and to maintain the pathway system at a quality level.

A number of people work together to carry out the Town's commitment to this outstanding Pathway System. They include: Linda Niles, Town Planner, whose responsibility is to initiate easements; Jeff Peterson, Engineer and Director of Public Works, whose responsibility is the design and construction of the paths, including overseeing their maintenance; and Art Mendoza – the man on the front lines – who supervises the maintenance team. Please thank his crew the next time you see them on the Pathways. Of course, Les Jones, City Manager makes sure all tasks get done efficiently.

Once again, please join our Path, Recreation and Parks together with our Community Relations Committees, and walk or ride one of our Town Pathways on October 3rd. Mark your calendar now. See you there!

Pathways, Schools & Safety

Share The Roadways & Pathways Safely – Especially With The Beginning Of The New School Year

Due to the physical constraints of our roads, it is especially important to practice safe driving habits and courtesy – particularly with the school year now beginning again. The Town urges its residences and visitors to practice the "Three C's": Common sense, Courtesy and Communication when using Town roads and paths.

When two pedestrians meet on a path, they can generally greet and pass each other without any difficulty. However, when a pedestrian and an equestrian meet, it is best to stop, communicate, and then select the best way to pass.

When motoring through Town, the same rules apply. If you encounter a child, horseback rider or bicyclist, please slow down and wait until you can safely pass. Please refrain from using your horn or racing your car motor because this can startle a pathway-user into unpredictable behavior.

In using the roadway, pedestrians are advised to walk *facing* traffic, while bicyclists should ride *along with* the flow of traffic.

Getting Together

Neighbors in some areas of town join together for "block parties," pot luck dinners, and get-to-gether deserts. If you're interested in how to organize something like this in your neighborhood, pick up a reprint of the Sunset Magazine article entitled "How To Throw a Block Party," which is now available at Town Hall. You may contact Community Relations through Town Hall for further information or suggestions.

~ Community Relations

Adopt a Road!

Our town needs everyone's help to keep our neighborhood roads litter-free!

Examples of roadways needing our cooperative attention are Page Mill Road and Arastradero Road. The Environmental Design Committee, in cooperation with interested residents, makes the following invitation:

Please ADOPT A ROAD – a section of Page Mill Road, Arastradero Road, or any road near your home – and invest a few minutes in picking up some litter, daily, weekly, or at any time at all! And for those who ALREADY take a few minutes to do this for our community – we thank you!

This low-cost solution follows the spirit of:

- Keeping our neighborhoods more beautiful
- Avoiding additional taxation
- Helping safety considerations, and
- Recognizing that the magic "little elves" who "should" do this, are not funded in our Town's Budget!

Consider that litter on our beautiful landscape is comparable to scratches on a symphonic recording. We truly believe that most residents are willing to help…so let's give it a whirl!

Take PRIDE in our Town! Call Town Hall at 941-7222 and REGISTER the specific street or section of roadway that you and your family would like to ADOPT. The Environmental Design Comittee is willing to oversee this new Adoption Program for everyone's benefit.

Safety Committee Volunteers

The Safety Committee invites resident volunteers to join the Emergency Preparedness Program. In order to ensure that all the citizens of Los Altos Hills are fully alerted to emergency procedures, helpers are still needed within the following designated areas:

1. Matadero Creek Court, Matadero Creek Lane, Story Hill Lane, and Country Way.
2. Elise Court, Dawson Drive, Rebecca Lane, and Jessica Lane.
3. Stonebrook Drive, Prospect Avenue, Priscilla Lane, Oneonta Drive, Oak Knoll Circle, and Oak Park Court.

To help in these areas, or any other part of Town, please contact Town Hall at 941-7222. Thank you!

~ Your Safety Committee

Historical Perspectives

The fascinating history of our town mirrors that of much of California, covering the Ohlone Indians, Spanish settlers, development as a ranching and fruit growing region, and most recently, evolution into the residential community we now know.

In recognition of the importance of historical sites and buildings, the town has established a list of landmarks located within the town. One of these is the Griffin House, which is located on the Foothill College campus. Griffin House and its carriage house, which is currently used as a fire station, are the only buildings in Los Altos Hills (or Los Altos for that matter) that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The house and carriage house were designed by two well known San Jose architects, Wolfe and McKenzie, for Willard M. Griffin. The house is a splendid example of shingled Craftsman style architecture, which evolved from the Queen Anne style about the turn of the century. The house's unique architecture was the inspiration for the design of Foothill College.

Willard M. Griffin, who was a Maine shipbuilder before coming to California in the 1870's, purchased 98 acres of rolling hills from Daniel T. Ames at the turn of the century for $10,000 in gold.

Willard M. Griffin was one of the founders of Griffin and Skelley, a company formed to buy fruit from local growers and pack it for shipment. In 1916 the company merged with three other major canning companies to become California Packing Corporation. The name was changed in 1967 to the Del Monte Corporation.

Willard C. Griffin, grandson of Willard M. Griffin, sold the estate to William Cusack in 1957. It was purchased by the Foothill-De Anza Community College District for the Foothill College campus in 1959. Since then, the Griffin House has been used by the college district for storage and has not been properly maintained. The October 1989 earthquake further damaged the house. Consequently, the Griffin House is currently in need of major renovation.

In 1990 plans were made to demolish the Griffin house and build a new office building in its place. As a result of community and Los Altos Hills Town Council support for preserving a piece of our town's history and the college district's budget restrictions, Foothill College has shelved plans for the new office building and has agreed to allow urgent repairs to be made to the house to prevent further deterioration, provided that the college district does not have to provide any funding for the project.

The historic Griffin House on the Foothill College Campus.

According to Nancy Mason, head of the Committee to Save Griffin House, over 70% of the $100,000 needed for stabilization of the house has already been raised. Donations may be sent to the Committee to Save Griffin House, P.O. Box 624, Los Altos, CA 94023. Selection of an architect to oversee stabilization is now proceeding. Once deterioration of the house has been arrested, a fund-raising campaign for complete rehabilitation of the house will begin.

~ Linda G. Swan
President, Los Altos Hills Historical Society

Community Calendar

Upcoming Events

Los Altos Hills

October 3 **10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
Town Pathways Day; see article on page 1 for details!

Downtown Los Altos

September 26 **1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**
Ye Olde Town Band Concert, Shoup Park.

October 9, 10 **10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**
Celebrate! Los Altos Fall Festival, South Parking Plaza between San Antonio Road & Second Street.

November 28 **Evening**
Festival of Lights Parade; look for details in the media.

January 29 **Evening**
"Salute to the Mayors" Banquet; look for details in the media.

Where Can We Recycle In Los Altos Hills?

California communities are mandated under AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act, to reduce their waste 25% by 1995 and 50% by 2000. Land-fill sites for garbage disposal are filling up and we must consider some alternatives. We can help Los Altos Hills meet its quota by recycling as much as possible. The recycling manager for Los Altos Garbage says Los Altos Hills residents are doing a good job.

Here is a list of local resources, with suggestions for recycling.

Los Altos Garbage Company
Home pickup. Phone (415) 961-8044. Accepts the following materials on a bi-weekly basis:

- All newspapers and inserts. Bag or tie and leave next to bin.
- Non-glossy white paper, paper bags, photocopies. Bag or tie and leave next to bin. (No envelopes with plastic windows, and no junk mail.)
- Glass jars and bottles with lids removed.
- Metal food and beverage cans of aluminum, tin, steel and bi-metal.
- Plastics – "P.E.T." or "P.E.T.E." containers, or #1 within the recycling triangle.

Purissima Road Yard Waste Center
Located at 27400 Purissima Road near the Little League playfield, open Thursday thru Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (You will be asked to show that you are a Los Altos Hills resident.)

- Corrugated cardboard. Please flatten boxes.
- Garden clippings cut into 6 ft. lengths.
- Plastics. "HDPE" or #2 in the recycling triangle.

Toxic and Hazardous Waste Dropoff Site
Santa Clara County has monthly pickups at various locations for disposal of items such as paints, household and garden chemicals, and other hazardous wastes. Phone (408) 299-7300 for information about pickup locations, dates and appointments.

Stanford Recycling Center
Located at 701 Serra Street next to the fire station, on the Stanford campus near El Camino. Phone (415) 723-0919. Open for drop-offs Monday thru Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. In addition to items listed for Los Altos Garbage and the Purissima Road Yard Waste Center, they accept:

- Magazines and junk mail.
- Clean Polystyrene, packaging materials and food containers.
- Old phone books.

Palo Alto Recycling Center
Located at 2380 Embarcadero Road adjacent to the Palo Alto dump. Phone (415) 329-2495. Open daily, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Closes at 1:00 p.m. on Mondays. In addition to items listed for the Garbage Company, the Waste Center, and the Stanford Recycling Center, they will accept scrap metal and used motor oil from non-residents of Palo Alto.

Peninsula Conservation Center
Located at 3921 Bayshore, a frontage road east of 101 between San Antonio and Embarcadero. Phone (415) 962-9876. Large bin or trailer behind building is open for drop-offs 24 hours a day.

- Magazines, and catalogs with slick covers.

Foothill Disposal Company
Located at 935 Terra Bella Avenue, near Shoreline and 101. Phone (415) 967-3034. A buy-back center for aluminum cans and glass beverage containers.

Some Additional Tips
Most markets will deduct 5 cents from your bill for each shopping bag you save by using a canvas tote, or by re-using paper or plastic bags. Remember to take your plastic vegetable bags with you to the market for re-use. There is a bin outside the Los Altos Safeway for recycling your plastic bags. When shopping, look for containers and packaging which can be re-used or re-cycled. You can find additional tips in the book *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth*, published by the Earth Works Group of Berkeley, California.

Holiday Float Volunteers Needed!

The Town invites volunteers to help in preparing our Holiday Float for the Festival of Lights Parade on November 28th. Supporters and contributions are also needed and welcome. (Please see reply card on Page 8.)

Residents' Reply Card

All members of the Los Altos Hills community are encouraged to participate in local government as members of our various volunteer committees, and to express themselves as interested friends and neighbors. Please use this card to keep in communication with us about your interests and concerns:

1. Which of the following Volunteer Committees would be of interest to you for future participation?
   - ☐ Community Relations
   - ☐ Pathways, Recreation and Parks
   - ☐ Environmental Design and Protection
   - ☐ Finance
   - ☐ Safety

2. Which of the following volunteer appointments might interest you?
   - ☐ Citizen's Advisory Committees
   - ☐ Joint Volunteer Awards
   - ☐ Los Altos Senior Coordinating Council
   - ☐ Exhibit Curator
   - ☐ Youth Commissioner

3. What topics would you like to see covered in general, or in future issues of the Town Newsletter?

   _____

   _____

4. Please give us any suggestions for improving our publication.

   _____

   _____

5. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for any member or department of our Town government?

   _____

   _____

6. Would you like to participate in decorating the new Los Altos Hills Town Float for this years' Festival of Lights Parade?

   ☐ Yes

7. Any other comments? (Please use additional sheets if needed.)

   _____

   _____

   _____

THANK YOU !!

Your Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

(Please cut on spine and on dotted line, and enclose in an envelope addressed to the Town of Los Altos Hills, 26379 Fremont Road.)

Did You Know?

Did you know that 2% of Los Altos Hills residents are living below the government specified poverty line? Perhaps surprisingly, only 1% of the residents of Los Altos fall below this level.

Do you have an interesting "fact-oid" for our readers? Please submit entries to the Town Newsletter c/o Town Hall.

About Our Newsletter

The Town Newsletter is published in March and September, with the assistance of volunteers from your Community Relations Committee.

Editor: Roger W. Burnell.

Assistant Editor: Karen Ammer

Los Altos Hills City Council Members

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Elayne Dauber, *Mayor Pro Tem*

Sid Hubbard • Bill Siegel • Barbara Tryon

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